

1. (Twice Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a sheet or film formed by extruding, blowing or casting a biodegradable thermoplastic composition that includes at least one thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one type of filler particles, wherein the sheet or film is stretched during processing so as to result in cavitation comprising tiny cavities in the vicinity of the filler particles.

14. (Twice Amended) An article of manufacture as defined in claim 13, wherein at least a portion of the soft thermoplastic biodegradable polymer comprises thermoplastic starch that is free of plasticizers.

16. (Twice Amended) A sheet or film formed by extruding, blowing or casting a biodegradable thermoplastic composition that comprises at least one hydrophobic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer, wherein the sheet or film is water-resistant and has been textured so as to have dead-fold of at least about 70%.

17. (Amended) A sheet or film as defined in claim 16, wherein the textured sheet or film has dead-fold of at least about 80%.

18. (Twice Amended) A sheet or film formed by extruding, blowing or casting a biodegradable thermoplastic composition that comprises at least one hydrophobic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one type of filler particles included in an amount so that the sheet or film has dead-fold of at least about 70%, wherein the sheet or film is water-resistant.

19. (Amended) A sheet or film as defined in claim 18, wherein the sheet or film has dead-fold of at least about 80%.

20. (Amended) A sheet or film as defined in claim 18, wherein the sheet or film has dead-fold of about 100%.

21. (Amended) A sheet or film as defined in claim 18, wherein the filler particles are included in an amount greater than about 10% by weight of the biodegradable thermoplastic composition.

22. (Amended) A sheet or film as defined in claim 18, wherein the filler particles are included in an amount greater than about 20% by weight of the biodegradable thermoplastic composition.

23. (Amended) A sheet or film as defined in claim 18, wherein the filler particles are included in an amount greater than about 30% by weight of the biodegradable thermoplastic composition.

29. (Amended) A sheet or film as defined in claim 16, wherein the biodegradable thermoplastic composition comprises at least one stiff thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one soft synthetic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer.

30. (Amended) A sheet or film as defined in claim 18, wherein the biodegradable thermoplastic composition comprises at least one stiff synthetic hydrophobic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one soft synthetic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer.

31. (Amended) A sheet or film as defined in claim 18, wherein at least a portion of the filler particles protrude from a surface of the sheet or film.

32. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a sheet or film formed by extruding, blowing or casting a biodegradable thermoplastic composition that comprises at least one thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one type of filler particles, wherein at least a portion of the filler particles protrude from a surface of the sheet or film.

36. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a sheet or film formed by extruding, blowing or casting a biodegradable thermoplastic composition that consists essentially of at least one synthetic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one type of filler particles included in an amount so that the sheet or film has dead-fold of at least about 70%.